



Section 8

Career Connections: 2006-2007

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Section 8: Career Connections

Course Descriptions, Sequences, Career Clusters

Section Overview

This section presents course information applicable to the Career Connections service area: course descriptions, course concentration and specialization sequences, and career clusters. Following the course description, the remainder of the information for each course or course sequence is presented in a chart. The following definitions and criteria are summarized to clarify and enhance the chart components.

Sequences

- A *concentration* is a coherent sequence of courses completed by a student in a specific career area as identified in this planning guide.
- A *specialization* is a choice by a student to specialize in an occupational field by taking additional courses in a specific career area as identified in this planning guide.
- A career and technical education *completer* is a student who has met the requirements for a career and technical concentration or specialization and all requirements for high school graduation or an approved alternative education program.

Career Clusters

To help students investigate careers and design their courses of study to advance their career goals, the Office of Career and Technical Education Services in Virginia has adopted the nationally accepted structure of career clusters, career pathways, and sample career specialties or occupations..

To simplify federal reporting, *The Career and Technical Education Reporting System (CTERS) User's Manual* assigns a career cluster to each course. The cluster is also listed here.

Additional information and samples of CTE course selection using career clusters are included in Section 11: Instructional Planning with Career Clusters, Career Pathways, and Occupations.

Education for Employment (EFE)

Introduction 9075 (for Students Identified as Disadvantaged—18 weeks)

Introduction 9076 (for Students Identified as Disadvantaged—other than 18 weeks)

Introduction 9082 (for Students with Disabilities—18 weeks)

Introduction 9083 (for Students with Disabilities—other than 18 weeks)

Grade Level: 6, 7, 8, 9

Students explore independent living and workplace skills by identifying individual assets, interests, aptitudes, social and emotional skills, and potential/realistic occupational skills. Through practical experiences related to daily living and work, students determine strategies to identify and develop their assets and ways to emphasize their strengths at home, school, and in the workplace.

Level I 9077 (for Students Identified as Disadvantaged—18 weeks)

Level I 9078 (for Students Identified as Disadvantaged—other than 18 weeks)

Level I 9084 (for Students with Disabilities—18 weeks)

Level I 9085 (for Students with Disabilities—other than 18 weeks)

Grade Levels: 9, 10, 11

Students investigate various occupational fields, examine occupational requirements, and select a career pathway. They begin to focus on improving and gaining skills required for specific occupations and practice solving real-world problems in the home, in school, and in the workplace. Levels I and II include a 36-week Cooperative Education option.

Level II 9079 (for Students Identified as Disadvantaged—18 weeks)

Level II 9080 (for Students Identified as Disadvantaged—other than 18 weeks)

Level II 9086 (for Students with Disabilities—18 weeks)

Level II 9087 (for Students with Disabilities—other than 18 weeks)

Grade Levels: 10, 11, 12

Students begin to make the transition from school to work by gaining technical skills, conducting a job search, and maintaining successful employment by demonstrating positive work traits and attitudes and continuing to develop technical skills. They focus on balancing their roles of worker, family member, and citizen. Levels I and II include a 36-week Cooperative Education option.

Concentration Sequences	Specialization Sequences	Career Cluster
<ul style="list-style-type: none">EFE I and EFE II orEFE I and EFE Co-op I	N/A	Education and Training

EFE Cooperative Education I 9020 (for Students Identified as Disadvantaged)

EFE Cooperative Education I 9030 (for Students with Disabilities)

EFE Cooperative Education II 9021 (for Students Identified as Disadvantaged)

EFE Cooperative Education II 9031 (for Students with Disabilities)

Recommended Grade Levels: 11, 12

This option replaces WECEP (Work Experience Cooperative Education Program)

Students receive school-based and community-based instruction organized around an approved job that leads toward their career goal. The teacher-coordinator, on-the-job training sponsor, parent, and student develop an individualized training plan that identifies learning experiences according to the student's occupational objective. The on-the-job paid training is an extension of the classroom instruction coordinated by the classroom teacher into a coherent set of performance objectives and skills.

Concentration Sequences	Specialization Sequences	Certification/License/Assessment Available	Career Cluster
<ul style="list-style-type: none">EFE Co-op I and II orEFE I and EFE Co-op I	N/A	Available upon completion of EFE Co-op I or II: <ul style="list-style-type: none">National Professional Certification in Customer Service (National Retail Federation Foundation)	Education and Training

Career Exploration and Investigation

Careers and You 8475

Grade Level: 6 or 7 (9, 18, or 36 weeks, single period)

Elementary or middle school students may enroll in this course prior to taking career and technical or career exploratory courses. They investigate the 16 career clusters designated by the U.S. Office of Education by focusing on

- understanding oneself in relation to work
- understanding and simulating work styles (mechanical, conventional, enterprising, social, investigative, and creative)
- identifying and simulating selected careers
- planning for future exploratory courses or activities.

Concentration Sequences	Specialization Sequences	Career Cluster
N/A: This course may be taught within any program area.	N/A	Education and Training

Career Pathways (Career Exploration) Phase 1 9070

Grade Levels: 6-12 (Time and schedule locally determined)

Phase 1 prepares students to be "career investigators." To obtain the title, students must assess their role in society, identify their role as a worker, analyze their personal assets, complete a basic exploration of career clusters and select career fields or occupations for further study, and secure a career investigator (job shadowing) position with a local employer.

Career Pathways (Career Skills) Phase 2 9071

Grade Levels: 6-12 (Time and schedule locally determined)

Phase 2 consists of an in-depth study of one to four or more career clusters through a variety of investigative activities with local employers. Students observe, analyze, and report on the demand for workers, worker qualifications, organizational structures, quality control measures, selected policies and regulations, ethical issues, and rewards of work. Students who complete Phase 2 successfully qualify to become "career analysts."

Career Pathways (Career Match) Phase 3 9072

Grade Levels: 11-12 (Time and schedule locally determined)

In Phase 3, students match their interests and aptitudes with occupational information, investigate a variety of pathways to career success, and reinforce the skills and knowledge needed for paid employment, particularly in the challenging 21st-century workplace. Pathways may include paid or volunteer employment experiences while the student is still in high school; continuing education opportunities such as college degree programs, apprenticeships, two-year specialized Tech Prep programs, or military experience; or any combination that will enhance progress toward a career goal.

Concentration Sequences	Specialization Sequences	Career Cluster
N/A: This instruction may be infused into any program area or treated as an across-the-board offering.	N/A	Education and Training

Entrepreneurship

Exploring Entrepreneurship 9093

Grade Levels: 9-12 (18 weeks)

Students explore qualities of individual enterprise, or the art of succeeding in a career. They develop skills needed to advance in an ever-changing work environment. Specifically, students develop competencies in decision making, long-range planning, effective communication, accountability, responsibility, and continuing education. Both individual development and business plan development are examined as concurrent career pathways.

Entrepreneurship Education 9094

Grade Levels: 11-12 (36 weeks)

This course is designed for students who wish to concentrate on strategies for career development through ownership/management of their own businesses. Although individual skills are emphasized, the focus of the course is on development of a business plan, including the following: Determination of type of business enterprise, legal considerations, location selection, financing, steps in getting the enterprise started, marketing strategy, and interaction with successful entrepreneurs.

Concentration Sequences	Specialization Sequences	Career Cluster
Entrepreneurship courses can be combined with appropriate content courses for a CTE program mix. However, entrepreneur courses do not count toward a concentration.	Entrepreneurship courses can be combined with appropriate content courses for a CTE program mix. However, entrepreneur courses do not count toward a specialization.	Marketing, Sales, and Service

Leadership

Introduction to Leadership 9091

Grade Levels: 9-10 (18 weeks)

This course equips students with individual and group leadership skills. Course content includes leadership principles, officer training, parliamentary law, public speaking, effective communication, positive public relations skills, and techniques of organizing and conducting group meetings and activities. Students are encouraged to be active members of a community or school organization.

Leadership Development 9092

Grade Levels: 11-12 (18 to 36 weeks)

Students develop competencies in identifying individual aptitudes in relation to effective leadership skills, understanding organizational behavior, using effective communication in the workplace, handling human resources and organizational problems, supervising and training employees, resolving conflict, and planning for the future. Continuing education in leadership is emphasized as well as practical leadership experiences in cooperation with school and community leaders.

Concentration Sequences	Specialization Sequences	Career Cluster
Leadership courses can be combined with appropriate content courses for a CTE program mix. However, leadership courses do not count toward a concentration.	Leadership courses can be combined with appropriate content courses for a CTE program mix. However, leadership courses do not count toward a specialization.	Education and Training

Teacher Cadet Program

ProTeam 9060/9061

Grade Level: 7 or 8

ProTeam is an exploratory class for students in grades 7 and 8 with a career interest in teaching and education. The curriculum is designed to help students set realistic goals that include the steps to prepare for successful completion of high school and college, including an emphasis on career development competencies. The eight course modules are *I Can Self-Reflect*, *I Can Communicate*, *I Can Teach Others*, *I Can Be Different*, *I Can Make Decisions*, *I Can Set Goals*, and *I Can Think Positively*. The course has an emphasis on service learning, cooperative work groups, teaching-like experiences, and family involvement. This program shall be articulated with a Teacher Cadet program at the high school.

Teacher Cadet 9062

Grade Level: 12 (36 weeks)

The Teacher Cadet course introduces seniors to a career in teaching and education. The primary elements of the curriculum components are *the learner*, *the school*, and *the teacher and teaching*. The components are intentionally broad in scope and provide a great deal of flexibility based on the career interest of a student. In addition to the fundamental curriculum components, all students are required to participate in an internship outside the teacher cadet classroom. The internship may involve the pre-school level through grade 12.

Concentration Sequences	Specialization Sequences	Career Cluster
Teacher Cadet (9062) (36 weeks) and two of the following 18-week courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual Development 8209 • Introduction to Early Childhood Education 8233 • Introduction to Leadership 9091 • Leadership Development 9092 • Life Planning 8226 • Parenting 8231 	N/A	Education and Training
Teacher Cadet (9062) (36 weeks) and one of the following 36-week courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Childhood Education I 8285 • Early Childhood Education II 8286 • Individual Development 8210 • Introduction to Early Childhood Education 8234 • Leadership Development 9092 • Life Planning 8227 • Parenting 8232 		

